

JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE

Activity: State Grants Administration

	1999 Estimate	Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	2000 Budget Request	Change From 1999 (+/-)
State Grants Administration	500	0	+500	1,000	+500
Total Requirements \$(000)	500	0	+500	1,000	+500

AUTHORIZATION

16 U.S.C. 4601-4-11, Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) Act of 1965, as amended.

OVERVIEW

The **State Grants Administration** activity administers previously awarded and new grant projects in cooperation with State partners so as to ensure accountability and compliance with site conservation and public access mandates.

APPLICABLE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MISSION GOALS

IIIc Assisted through Federal funds and programs, the protection of recreational opportunities is achieved through formal mechanisms to ensure continued access for public recreation use.

FY 1999 Enacted Program: \$500,000

Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act defines Federal and State responsibilities for stewardship and maintenance of over 37,000 grant-assisted projects in public recreation use. The anti-conversion mandate of the law and public access provisions of other Federal statutes require continual monitoring of completed project sites to ensure that the sites remain part of the national recreation estate and fully available for public use. Core resources are the minimum necessary to ensure protection of over \$6.4 billion in public investments in public recreation projects.

In fiscal year 1998, with \$1.0 million provided for this activity, the NPS inspected and certified as operational 2,013 project sites, negotiated or resolved 200 threats and legitimate conversion requests, processed 220 grant billings, and closed out 147 active projects.

In fiscal year 1999, the reduction of \$500 in administrative monies made it difficult to carry out the fiduciary responsibilities necessary for a proactive parks protection and stewardship program. With an appropriation of \$500,000 the NPS administrative functions involved the closeout of 391 grants, processing 462 grant billings, and the resolution of five audit exceptions. Park protection and stewardship activities were limited to a as needed basis which may likely result in L&WCF constituents seeking congressional remedies and increased litigation against NPS for failure to meet its ongoing fiduciary responsibilities. Under constrained funding the Park Service is unable to comprehensively inspect and certify that funded areas continue to be open, accessible, and functional to the recreating public.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund program supports the achievement of mission goal IIIc -- recreation properties assisted by the Land and Water Conservation Fund are protected and remain available for public use. At FY 1999 funding levels it is not possible to ensure that NPS mission goal IIIc will be met.

Performance Goals

Land Acquisition and State Assistance/State Grants Administration

Long-term Goal IIIc1	By September 30, 2002, 32,451 recreational properties, as of 1997, assisted by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, and the Federal Lands to Parks Program are protected and remain available for public recreation.
Annual Goal IIIc1	By September 30, 2000, no net loss has occurred to recreational properties assisted by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, and the Federal Lands to Parks Program.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Performance Information	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Estimate	FY 2000 Estimate
Number of sites inspected and certified operational	2,013	500	5,000
Number of sites threatened	200	225	250
Number of active grants completed and closed out	147	387	75

JUSTIFICATION OF FY 2000 BUDGET REQUEST FOR STATE GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

	2000 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
State Grants Administration \$(000)	1,000	+500

The FY 2000 request for State Grants Administration is \$1.0 million, which represents an increase of \$0.500 million above the FY 1999 enacted level. The programmatic increase of \$0.500 million for the State Grants Administration activity is justified by the proposed change that follow:

▪ **State Grants Administration (+\$500,000):** Since 1996, when appropriations for L&WCF State grants were zeroed out, the National Park Service has reduced its program staff by more than 68 percent. At least commensurate reductions in program personnel have been realized among the States. Since 1997, the NPS reductions were made in accord with a downsizing plan that recognized the ongoing fiduciary responsibilities associated with the protection and stewardship of the on-the-ground legacy created through the investment of some \$3.2 billion dollars in Federal monies. The downsizing plan recognized the need for developing new tools for meeting our mandated responsibilities. The reduction of \$500,000 in grant administration in fiscal year 1999 left the Park Service without the necessary resources to complete the transition process, much less carryout an effective park protection and stewardship program which has increased the Service's vulnerability to an increase in legal proceedings which, in the long run, could well cost far in excess of what was needed to support a viable proactive program.

An increase of \$500,000 in FY 2000 would enable the NPS to effectively carryout its fiduciary responsibilities and allow for the progressive development of more effective and efficient park protection tools. The proposed increase would allow the NPS to increase its proactive activities to ensure public access by inspecting and certifying as operational 5,000 project sites, negotiate or resolve 200 threats and legitimate conversion requests, oversee 250 grant billings, close out 75 grants, and resolve fifteen audit exceptions.